

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT, For the Year Ending December 31st, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report for 1910.

The Physical Features and General Character of the District and general condition of the population.

This District is made up of the divisions of Whitchurch, Ganarew, Welsh Bicknor, Welsh Newton, Llanrothal, and Garway, all are distinctly rural, sparsely populated, and most of the inhabitants are engaged in agricultural work. There are elevated parts in all the divisions, and these slope down, more or less abruptly to the river Monnow in the Llanrothal division, and to the river Wye in the Whitchurch and Welsh Bicknor divisions, while Welsh Newton, Garway and Ganarew are the hilly elevated districts between the other three. The highest point is in the Welsh Newton division, it is between 600 and 700 feet above sea level. The main occupation of the residents is agricultural work, and this is conducive to health and longevity.

The House Accomodation is adequate, the open spaces around the houses are ample and kept clean. Any cases of neglect have been remedied at once or after serving the usual notice by the Inspector. One case of a delapidated and overcrowded house was remedied in the Welsh Newton division, and a case of overcrowding has recently been reported in the Whitchurch division and is being attended to and proper privy accomodation constructed.

The Supervision over the Erection of New Houses is limited to ascertaining that the water supply is reasonably ample, and giving a certificate to that effect, before occupation takes place. There are no Bye-Laws.

The Water Supply is by Wells, Springs, Storage Tanks, and in some parts from Streams, also from Wells sunk in the foreshore of the river Wye. The supply is plentiful in some parts, while in others it is very deficient, on parts of the Doward many of the houses are remote from a water supply of any quantity. The Wells have been greatly improved and furnish a better supply. A careful inspection was made of plans for an improved supply to the village of Whitchurch, and an analysis of the stream water partly filtered was obtained. This turned out satisfactory, and the scheme carried out will be a great improvement at a small cost. The private water supplies by means of wells might easily be improved in many cases. The supply to the Manor House and Vicarage at Gararew has been improved, but not to the satisfaction of the occupiers. The supply in the Whitchurch division, especially the Doward, might be improved by storage tanks, and improving and opening wells.

The Public Wells and Springs are now better protected, and this year have not failed to any great extent. There is no public water service.

The Milk Supply is obtained from the farms, there are no milk-shops within the district. The dairies and cow-sheds have been maintained in a satisfactory state; they have been inspected, but no defects discovered. The only administration as regards milk is, that when an infectious disease breaks out in a farm, no milk or dairy produce is allowed to go off the premises, scarlatina occurred in a farm in the Whitchurch division, and these directions were given. No tuberculous milk has been detected.

As Regards Other Food, the Slaughter Houses have been inspected, nothing unsound or insanitary has been detected, no action under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act has been called for. No carcasses nor parts of carcasses have been condemned for tuberculous or other causes.

The Sewerage and Drainage is sufficient. Where house drains have been found defective they have been remedied. In the Whitchurch division two cases of defective drains and one of an improperly constructed drain were remedied.

The Methods of Disposal of Sewage are by means of earth closets, privies with pits, which are cleaned out and used for garden purposes. They are efficient, and where neglected have been rectified. Several cases of neglect are referred to further on.

The Rivers and Streams in the District are free from pollution, those running through grazing land become contaminated by the cattle, especially in the summer, when they stand in the streams, and at shearing time by the sheep washing. In the Whitchurch division, a privy in dangerous proximity to a stream was done away with, and one erected at a safe distance.

Excrement Disposal is by means of digging pits in the garden and emptying the collections from the privies and closets into them, covering over with earth. and after a suitable time using this as a fertilizer; this is efficient. There are no systems of sewers or sewage disposal in any of the divisions.

Three cases of foul and offensive privies were dealt with in the Whitchurch division and one case of defective accomodation, and one case in Wesh Newton of delapidated privy.

The Removal and Disposal of House Refuse is by means of middens. These are emptied and used on the gardens, when neglected, on attention being called to them, they are at once remedied. One case occurred in Whitchurch and was dealt with.

No public scavenging or collecting of house refuse is carried out.

Nuisances. All instances of these have been abated on receiving the Inspector's notice; one case of nuisance, arising from refuse collection, two cases of drains discharging on to the road, were dealt with in the Whitchurch division.

The Public Elementary Schools are in a sanitary state. Garway Schools are now the only ones that have not a water supply on the premises. In every case that occurred of infectious disease, the families were rigidly excluded from school until all infection was past and the house disinfected; and the school teachers were notified to this effect. Only one case attending school and without medical attendance was discovered, this was in the Welsh Newton division. On visiting the house it was found to be a case of scarlatina, the usual precautions were taken, and instructions given. It is most important that children absent from school owing to ill-health should only be re-admitted on producing a medical certificate saying they are free from any infectious disease. None of the schools were closed during the year for epidemic disease.

The School Medical Officer makes regular inspections of the schools.

Methods of Dealing with Infectious Disease. All cases notified are visited, and directions as to isolation, disinfection and other necessary precautions are given, and disinfectants are supplied, at the termination the house is disinfected and re-decorated internally where necessary. In Whitchurch there were two cases of Diphtheria in one house and one case in another, they were quite unconnected in any way and the last one was probably an imported infection. One case of Scarlatina occurred at the very margin of the Whitchurch Division, and one case of Scarlatina occurred in the Welsh Newton Division, and in November another case occurred there from infection imported from the neighbouring sanitary area of Monmouth. There were no deaths from notifiable disease. There is no hospital in the district. It is hoped an arrangement can be made with a neighbouring district to use their Hospital.

Methods of Control of Tuberculosis. None has been entered upon. Only one death occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and that in the Welsh Newton Division. No cases were notified by the Poor Law Medical Officers. There is no hospital accommodation in the District.

Incidence of Disease. There were isolated cases of Scarlatina and Diphtheria in the Whitchurch and Welsh Newton divisions, but no outbreaks of any form of Epidemic disease. The largest number of deaths registered are ascribed to Heart Disease and the majority at an advanced age. Tuberculosis has not occurred to any noticeable extent. No case of Puerperal Fever occurred. There is no preventable infant mortality.

The Number of Births registered during the year was 35 as against 20 in last year. The Birth rate is 26.9 per thousand.

The Number of Deaths registered during the year was 20 as against 28 in last year. The death rate is 15.1 per thousand, of these deaths 1 was due to suicide, 4 were over 80, and 5 over 70 years of age.

Inspection of the District. In conjunction with the inspector the various parts of the District have been visited from time to time. Special inspections were made of the contemplated water supply for Whitchurch and samples taken for analysis and reported on.

Two Cases of Overcrowding. Five cases of Infectious Disease, Three cases of Defective Drains, Two cases of Deficient Privy Accommodation, One case of suspected River Pollution and other cases of nuisance were visited and reported on.

The Factory and Workshop Act. There are 12 workshops and two workplaces in the District, viz., 4 Bakehouses, 4 Carpenters' Shops, 4 Blacksmiths' Shops and 2 Dressmakers. The bakehouses have been regularly lime-washed. An application to register a bakehouse in the Whitchurch division was refused, as the accommodation was quite unsuitable and the occupier refused to improve it. The sanitary accommodation for the workshops is adequate. The number of workers in any one workshop or workplace does not exceed 3, so that the sufficiency has been fully met by adopting the same standard as in dwellings.

There are no home-workers nor underground bakehouses in the district.

I am,

Yours obediently,

LLOYD G. SMITH, M.D.,
M.O.H.

TABLE I.

WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 Year of age.		At all ages.					Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	Number.	Rate *					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	1587	40	25'2	8	200	25	15'7				25	15'7
1901	1549	35	22'6	5	102'8	16	10'3				16	10'3
1902	1511	27	17'8	3	111.1	26	17'8				26	17'8
1903	1477	43	29'1	1	23'2	20	13'5				20	13'5
1904	1443	35	24	2	57	28	19				28	19
1905	1410	21	14'8	3	142'5	12	8'5				12	8'5
1906	1400	39	27'8	3	78'7	17	12				17	12
1907	1370	33	23'1	3	90'9	31	22'5				31	22'5
1908	1340	26	19'4	3	115	17	12'6				17	12'6
1909	1310	20	15'2			28	13'6				28	13'6
Averages for years 1900-1909	1439'7	31'9	20'8	3'4	94'1	22	14'5				22	14'5
1910	1300	35	26'9	3	85'7	20	15'1				20	15'1

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE --The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The dea~~r~~ths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term " Non-residents " is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there ; and by the term " Residents " is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The " Public Institutions " to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).	10,307	Total population at all ages.....		1,549	} At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses		383	
		Average number of persons per house		3.8	

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
	Hereford Lunatic Asylum. Monmouth Hospital. Monmouth Union Infirmary. Ross Hospital.	
Is the Union Workhouse within the District ? No.		

WITCHURCH RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.
VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	I.....				
	YEAR.	Population estimated to mid- dle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		<i>a</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>
1900	..	1587	40	25	8
1901	..	1549	35	16	5
1902	..	1511	27	26	3
1903	..	1477	43	20	1
1904	..	1443	35	28	2
1905	..	1410	21	12	3
1906	..	1400	39	17	3
1907	..	1370	33	31	3
1908	..	1340	26	17	3
1909	..	1310	20	28	—
Averages of Years 1900 to 1909	..	1439.7	31.9	22	3.4
1910	..	1300	35	20	3

NOTES :—(a) The separate localities adopted for this Table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes, or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known populations this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-column *c* of this Table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See Note on Table I. as to the meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident".)

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b* and *c*, should agree with the figures for the year in the Columns 2, 3 and 12 respectively, of Table I.: the gross totals of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1910

[illegible]

TABLE IV.
WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT,
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox															
Measles															
Scarlet Fever															
Whooping-cough ..															
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)															
Croup															
Fever {															
Typhus															
Enteric															
Other continued															
Epidemic Influenza ..	1					1									
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa															
Enteritis															
Gastritis															
Puerperal fever															
Erysipelas															
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	1					1									
Other tuberculous diseases															
Cancer, malignant disease ..	2						2								
Bronchitis	2						2								
Pneumonia															
Pleurisy															
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..															
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver }															
Venereal diseases ..															
Premature birth ..															
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..															
Heart diseases	6	1				3	2								
Accidents															
Suicides	1					1									
Convulsions															
All other causes ..	7	2				1	4								
ALL CAUSES ..	20	3				7	10								

TABLE V.

WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES	Certified				1	1	1		1									3
	Uncertified																	
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox																	
	Chicken-pox																	
	Measles																	
	Scarlet Fever																	
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough ..																	
	Diarrhoea, all forms ..																	
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis																	
	Gastro-enteritis																	
Wasting Diseases.	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																	
	Premature Birth ..																	
	Congenital Defects ..								1									1
	Injury at Birth ..																	
Tuber-culous Diseases.	Want of Breast-milk } Starvation }																	
	Atrophy, Debility, } Marasmus }						1											1
	Tuberculous Meningitis																	
	Tuberculous, Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																	
Other Causes	Other Tuberculous Diseases																	
	Erysipelas																	
	Syphilis																	
	Rickets																	
	Meningitis																	
	Not Tuberculous																	
	Convulsions				1	1												1
	Bronchitis																	
	Laryngitis																	
	Pneumonia																	
Suffocation, overlying																		
Other Causes ..																		
					1	1	1		1									3

District (or Sub-division) of Whitchurch Rural.

Population :
Estimated to middle of 1910, 1,300.

Births in the year { legitimate, 33.
 illegitimate, 2.

Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants, 2.
 illegitimate infants, 1.

Deaths from ALL CAUSES AT ALL AGES, 20.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1910

FOR THE
Rural District of **Whitchurch**

On the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions* 4
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	12	None.	None.
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in part 3 of this Report)	2		
Total ...	14		

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions	
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector		
1	2	3	4	5	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>					
Want of Cleanliness - - - -					
Want of Ventilation - - - -					
Overcrowding - - - -					
Want of Drainage of Floors - - -					
Other Nuisances - - - -					
Sanitary Accommodation {	Nil.	Nil.	Nil,	Nil.	
					Insufficient - - - -
					Unsuitable or Defective - - -
Not Separate for Sexes - - -					
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>					
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s. 101). -					
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) - - - -					
Other Offences - - - -					
(Excluding Offences relating to Outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report).					
Total - - - -					

3-HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 167							
	Lists received from Employers.				Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils.	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils.	Prosecutions.	
	Twice in the year.		Once in the year.				Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists.	Failing to send Lists.
	Lists.	Outworkers.	Lists.	Outworkers.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Wearing Apparel								
(1) making, &c.								
(2) cleaning and washing								
Lace, lace curtains and nets								
Artificial flowers								
Nets, other than wire nets								
Tents								
Sacks								
Furniture and upholstery								
Fur pulling								
Feather sorting								
Umbrellas, &c.								
Carding, &c. of buttons, &c.								
Paper bags and boxes								
Basket making								
Brush making								
Racquet and Tennis Balls								
Stuffed Toys								
File making								
Electro plate								
Cables and chains								
Anchors and grapnels								
Cart gear								
Locks, latches and keys								
Pea picking								
TOTAL								

4-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the Year.					Number.
1					2
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop, bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Blacksmiths' Shops	-	-	-	4
	Carpenters' Shops	-	-	-	4
	Bakehouses	-	-	-	4
	Dressmakers	-	-	-	2
	Total number of Workshops on Register				14

5-OTHER MATTERS

CLASS.	Number.
I	2
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) -	-
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector } Notified by H.M. Inspector -	-
as remediable under the Public Healths Acts, but } Reports of action taken sent to H.M.	
not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5). } Inspector -	NONE.
Other -	-
Underground Bakerhouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year -	-
In use at the end of the year -	-

